

Appl. No. 10/792,228
Response dated March 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2005

Docket No. 5873.38012

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of attaching supplemental hair to natural human hair comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of strands of human hair growing from a scalp;

directly contacting a glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle with a heating element and fusing the glued portion to change the glued portion from a solidified state to a workable viscosity, wherein the supplemental hair bundle includes a plurality of supplemental hair strands glued to one another at the glued portion by thermoplastic glue, and wherein the thermoplastic glue between supplemental hair strands is fused; and

clamping the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle together with the selected plurality of strands of human hair using the heating element and allowing mixing of the thermoplastic glue with the plurality of strands of human hair, wherein the glued portion is distorted to force fused glue to contact and mix with the plurality of strands of human hair.
2. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 further including the step of forming a joint between the strands of human hair and the supplemental hair bundle and directly contacting the joint with the heating element.

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3. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 wherein the step of directly contacting a glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle with a heating element and fusing the glued portion further includes directly contacting a glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle with a heating channel of a heated jaw of a supplemental hair applicator and fusing the glued portion.
4. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 further including the step of kneading a joint between the selected plurality of strands of human hair and the glued portion by pressing a convex kneading ridge on a kneading jaw to extend into a concave heating channel to mix strands of human hair, supplemental hair strands, and thermoplastic glue.
5. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 3 wherein the heating channel has a shape that matches a shape of the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle.
6. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 further including the step of clamping the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle while in the solidified state to the selected plurality of strands of human hair using the heating element and fusing the glued portion.

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7. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 wherein the step of clamping the glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle together with the selected plurality of strands of human hair further includes kneading the fused glue in the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle while the glued portion is in contact with the selected plurality of strands of human hair by closing a kneading jaw of a supplemental hair applicator so that a kneading ridge on a kneading jaw moves toward a heating channel on a heating jaw and contacts the glued portion and the selected plurality of strands of human hair.
8. (currently amended) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 3 wherein the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle is cylindrically shaped at one end of the supplemental hair bundle, and wherein the heating channel of the heated jaw of the supplemental hair applicator is concave to receive the cylindrically shaped end of the supplemental hair bundle.
9. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 8 wherein the step of fusing a glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle further includes the step of applying heat along a length of a portion of half of a lateral face of the cylindrically shaped glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle.
10. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 wherein the step of contacting the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle together with the selected plurality of strands of human hair further includes the step of mixing fused glue in the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle and supplemental hair strands into the selected plurality of strands of human hair.

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11. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 wherein the step of clamping the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle together with the selected plurality of strands of human hair further includes the step of clamping the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle to the selected plurality of strands of human hair at a point near the scalp.
12. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 1 wherein the step of fusing the glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle further includes the step of fusing the glued portion of a supplemental hair bundle while the supplemental hair bundle is in contact with the selected plurality of strands of human hair.
13. (original) The method of attaching supplemental hair according to claim 4 further including the step of simultaneously heating the thermoplastic glue and kneading the supplemental hair bundle while the supplemental hair bundle is in contact with the selected plurality of strands of human hair.

Claims 14-16 (cancelled)

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17. (currently amended) A supplemental hair applicator comprising:

a heated jaw having a heating channel recessed in an inside surface of the heated jaw for receiving and applying heat to a bundle of supplemental hair, wherein the heated channel has a channel length substantially equal to the length of a glued portion of the bundle of supplemental hair; and

a kneading jaw moveably connected to the heated jaw for moving between an open position and a closed position, wherein the kneading jaw includes a kneading ridge that extends above an inside surface of the kneading jaw, and when in the closed position, the kneading ridge extends past the inside surface of the heated jaw into the heated channel, wherein the kneading ridge is adapted to apply force in an opposing relationship to the heating channel to distribute fused glue among a selected plurality of strands of human hair and a plurality of supplemental hair strands.

18. (original) The supplemental hair applicator of claim 17 further including:

a heated jaw arm for supporting the heated jaw, the heated jaw arm having a jaw end and a pivot end; and

a kneading jaw arm for supporting the kneading jaw, the kneading jaw arm having a jaw end and a pivot end, and

a hinge connected to the pivot ends of the heated jaw arm and kneading jaw arm.

19. (original) The supplemental hair applicator of claim 17 wherein the heating channel length and a length of the kneading ridge is about 0.5 inches.

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20. (original) The supplemental hair applicator of claim 17 wherein the heated jaw and the kneading jaw are coated with a material that resists sticking to thermoplastic glue.
21. (original) The supplemental hair applicator of claim 17 wherein the heating channel is generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the heated jaw.
22. (currently amended) A kit for attaching supplemental hair to natural human hair comprising:
- a plurality of supplemental hair bundles, wherein each of the supplemental hair bundles includes a plurality of supplemental hair strands previously glued to one another at a glued portion by thermoplastic glue between the supplemental hair strands; and
 - a supplemental hair applicator having:
 - a heated jaw having a heating channel recessed in an inside surface of the heated jaw for receiving and applying heat to one of the supplemental hair bundles, wherein the heated channel has a channel length substantially equal to the length of the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle; and
 - a kneading jaw moveably connected to the heated jaw for moving between an open position and a closed position, wherein the kneading jaw includes a kneading ridge that extends above an inside surface of the kneading jaw, and when in the closed position, the kneading ridge extends past the inside surface of the heated jaw into the heated channel, wherein the kneading ridge is adapted to apply force in an opposing relationship to the heating channel to distort the glued portion to distribute fused glue among a selected plurality of strands of human hair and the plurality of supplemental hair strands.

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23. (original) The kit for attaching supplemental hair according to claim **22** wherein the heating channel has a shape that matches a shape of the glued portion of the supplemental hair bundle.

24. (original) The kit for attaching supplemental hair according to claim **22** wherein the supplemental hair applicator includes:

a heated jaw arm for supporting the heated jaw, the heated jaw arm having a jaw end and a pivot end;

a kneading jaw arm for supporting the kneading jaw, the kneading jaw arm having a jaw end and a pivot end, and

a hinge connected to the pivot ends of the heated jaw arm and kneading jaw arm.